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Northampton Mercury

Thursday, May 3, 2012 First published 1720

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Fire crews' new skills help save 200 people

FIREFIGHTERS trained to give emergency medical help to people who have suffered a cardiac arrest, have saved more than 200 lives in the last year, new figures suggest.

Last year, many county firefighters volunteered for training in the use of basic defibrillator machines. And in the 12 months since the scheme started, firefighters have used their new medical skills 210 times.

In that period, firefighters at stations in Northampton, Long Buckby and Guilsborough as well as the south of the county, used their new skill 124 times.

Darren Dovey, of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "They're some really great figures. Basically, fewer people are dying when it is preventable than had been happening before."

Although engines from some rural Northamptonshire stations have had defibrillators for several years, selected firefighters from other areas have been training with the East Midlands Ambulance Service.

Eventually all firefighters will be trained, with volunteers registering their mobile numbers with the ambulance control room.

Alerts will be sent to firefighters when appropriate patients then place a 999 call from within five miles of them.

An ambulance will also be sent as normal. If there is also a 999 fire call at the same time, the fire will take priority.

Firefighters learn the new skills during a five-day course which includes written and practical exams.

Mr Dovey said: "The really great thing is that the number of people we will be helping will be increasing as we push the training out to all firefighters. We are really pleased with the results so far."

Fire and rescue teams joined the East Midlands Ambulance Service and British Heart Foundation at the launch of the defibrillator scheme in 2011

Warning issued as flood waters continue to rise

THE Environment Agency has warned of the danger of flood water, and urged people to stay away from swollen rivers and lakes.

Andy Wilkinson, flood risk manager, said: "We really appreciate the co-operation people have shown in being evacuated.

"This is a precautionary measure as it's always difficult to tell exactly what the weather and river levels will do, but we would far rather people were safe than caught out in a serious flood. We do urge people to be careful and not to try to drive or walk through flood water.

"As little as six inches can knock you over and only two feet will float a car. There can also be hidden dangers such as loose manhole covers or contaminated water."

Flood warnings have this week been in place along the River Nene for Billing, Cogenhoe and Great Doddington.

Hundreds of people were told to leave Billing Aquadrome on Monday as the rising water levels posed a serious threat following heavy weekend rainfall.

Many were looked after by friends or families, but 150 people took refuge at Lings Forum on Monday and Tuesday night, where they were provided with food and bedding.

Many were hoping to be able to return to their homes at the Aquadrome before the end of this week, but all were keeping an eye on the weather forecast which predicted even more downpours on the way.

People can check for flood alerts at www.environment-agency.gov.uk or by calling 0845 988 1188.

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Up to one in four deaths at NGH could have been in the comfort of a person's home or hospice rather than a hospital bed, a review of patient notes has found

Hospital to review its plan of care

UP to one in four people who died at Northampton General Hospital could have been allowed to pass away in comfort at home given better planning of their care, a detailed review of patient notes suggests.

The review of the notes of 237 patients who died at NGH, many of whom were frail and elderly with cancer or dementia, found that hospital care was not needed for 25 per cent of them.

It is accepted by the NHS that most people with a debilitating condition want to die at home or another comfortable place such as a hospice given the choice.

Dr Sonia Swart, medical director at the hospital, said: "It's difficult because these people are ill, they have in a lot of cases come in because of a long-term condition.

"The general view is that if something bad happens to you, you should be in hospital.

"But in some people's cases it's not appropriate to intervene any further.

"It's an ethical question in many ways. Is a hospital bed always where you should be when you are at the end of your life?

"We need to have discussion with all our partners on this. Is there a better way of looking after these patients that will give them greater dignity?"

NHS Northamptonshire has responsibility for the care of people in the county with long-term illnesses outside of hospital treatment.

Dr Matthew Davies, a GP leading NHS Northamptonshire on end of life care, said: "We continue to work hard with hospital colleagues to ensure that end of life services commissioned and provided are of the very highest standard, and that we can assist as many people as possible to realise their wishes at the end of life."

Deadline extended for representations

THE final deadline for communities to tell the borough council how they would like to be represented has been extended to give groups more time to respond.

Earlier this year the local authority launched a review giving residents the chance to set up a local council to represent their area.

The deadline for petitions was Friday, March 27, but this has been extended to Friday, May 18.

There has been interest in establishing a new community or parish council in 10 areas of the town. Three areas have gained enough support for the council to take a closer look at developing proposals for residents to vote on later this year.

All petitions must be submitted by Friday, May 18 before a decision is made on whether a referendum will be held later in the year.

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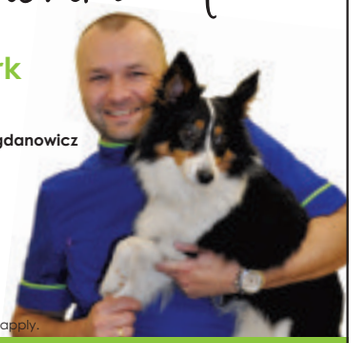

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Tax claim reminder

THE county's 64,400 tax credit customers are being reminded by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) that they must renew claims by the July 31 deadline. They are urged to act as soon as they receive a renewal pack from HMRC. Officials are also asking claimants to double-check the accuracy of the information in the pack. Claimants can get help and information at the DirectGov website at www.direct.gov.uk or on the tax credit helpline on 0345 300 3900.

See gardens for charity

NINE village gardens will be opening up next month to raise funds for charity. The gardens in Great Brington will be open from 11am till 5pm on Sunday, May 6. Amongst the attractions will be coffee and scones, a plant stall, a village exhibition and music in the church.

Dad's run raises cash

A FATHER-OF-TWO has raised £1,600 for a charity that helps sufferers of life-limiting disease, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, after he completed the London Marathon in four hours and 51 minutes. Lawrie Stenhouse, aged 51, who lives in Kislingbury, ran the 26.2-mile course around the capital for Action Duchenne, after speaking to neighbours whose son has the condition.

Bank holiday plant sale

AN ANNUAL sale organised by the Hardy Plant Society Northamptonshire Group will be held over the Bank Holiday weekend at Northamptonshire's Kelmarsh Hall. The event, which will be held on May 6 and 7, from 10am to 4pm, will feature 21 stall-holders and will include specialist nurseries. Admission is £2.50 and children aged up to 16 are free. For more details call Northampton 686543 or visit www.kelmarsh.com

Lithographs on display

AN EXHIBITION of stone lithographs created by a Northampton artist will be displayed in Northampton Museum and Art Gallery until Sunday, May 27. 'Editions 1920: Sarah Uldall' is 'a contemplation of proportion and balance, design, beauty and intangibility'. Entry is free between Tuesday and Saturday from 10am to 5pm and Sunday 2pm to 5pm.

Discount at tennis club

THE Abington Lawn Tennis Club is to offer a 30 per cent discount to new members who join this summer to celebrate the Olympic Games. The grass court club, which is situated in Park Avenue South, is introducing the offer to encourage more people in Northampton to pick up their racquets. For details visit the club's website at www.abingtonltc.co.uk or ring Colin on Northampton 759761, or Amie on 07855 755093.

Duke helps mark 40th

THE Duke of Gloucester helped a school named after his late brother celebrate its 40th anniversary. Prince Richard unveiled a commemorative plaque at Prince William School in Oundle, 40 years after it was officially opened by his brother, in whose honour it was named.

Church to host fair

AN Antiques, Books and Collectibles Fair will be held in Abington Church Rooms, Park Avenue North, Northampton, on Saturday, May 5. Admission is by donation and refreshments are available. The event will run from 10am until 4pm.

Fun day for families

A FAMILY fun day will be held in Blisworth on Saturday, May 5. There will be entertainment, amusements, ice cream and refreshments. It will be held at Blisworth Football Club, Courteenhall Road, in Blisworth, from 11.30am until 5pm.

Submitted picture

Driver's lucky escape from flying wheel

A MOTORIST had a lucky escape when a wheel which had come off a van flew over the central reservation and smashed into their windscreen.

The incident happened near junction one of the A14 at about 7pm last Wednesday.

The victim suffered minor injuries.

Leader accused of being 'scared to face public'

THE LEADER of Northampton Borough Council has been accused of being "too scared" to face the public in a debate about the future of Northampton's bus station.

Opposition groups at the Guildhall have called for the Conservative leaders of the council to hold a public meeting one Saturday afternoon to debate whether the Greyfriars bus station should be knocked down and replaced with a smaller building on the site of the Fishmarket.

But during a tense meeting of the council this week, the leader of the authority, Councillor David Mackintosh (*Con, Rectory Farm*) refused to hold such a meeting, claiming people could instead give their views when the council's planning committee makes a final decision on the proposals in the coming months.

That suggestion was attacked by Liberal Democrat Councillor, Brendan Glynane (*Lib Dem, Delapre*).

He said: "This is a really emotive issue and it seems the leader of the council is ducking and diving.

"Is he too frightened to discuss this with members of the public?

"Is he not man enough to do it?

"Real leaders are willing to stand up and face the public and we need a proper debate on this."

The council's opposition Labour group, which collected 200 signatures on a petition calling for a public meeting in one day last week, also criticised the decision not to hold a public debate.

Councillor Lee Mason (*Lab, Brookside*) said: "What's wrong with senior Tory councillors coming to the Guildhall on a Saturday and taking questions from the public?

"I fear the bus-using public will now never get their say."

But Councillor Mackintosh's approach was backed by members of his party.

Councillor Brian Oldham (*Con, West Hunsbury*) pointed out more than 100 people had attended one meeting at the Guildhall last month where the future of the town, including plans for the bus station, was debated.

He said: "He dealt with that very well. It was a very full and frank public debate."

Plans for the future of Northampton are on show at the Guildhall until Saturday.

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Mothers are celebrating after their protests (above) have been answered with a year's worth of funding

Mums get funding for baby cafe

MUMS in Northampton are celebrating news that a cafe specialising in breast-feeding support will re-open in the town in just over two weeks' time.

Campaigners who had been trying to find a way to keep the Northampton Baby Cafe, in Wellington Street, open said they had raised enough funds to pay for specialist workers, who encourage vital breast-feeding skills, for one year.

Having approached Northamptonshire County Councillors for donations from their personal empowering councillors funding, the campaigners amassed £14,495.

It means the popular cafe, the closure of which by the NHS sparked huge protests in the town centre, will open its doors again at The Friends Meeting House on Friday, May 11. After that it will open on Mondays and Fridays between 10am and noon.

Carolyn Markham, one of the two Baby Ways workers who will be employed using the money said: "We are overwhelmed by the response. When we first heard from NHS Northamptonshire in January that the money was being stopped, I never thought we'd get back to this stage."

NHS Northamptonshire stopped its £16,000-a-year funding as it wanted to spread the support for new mums around the county. It is also running schemes targeted on groups of women with low breast-feeding uptake.

However mums and health professionals, many of whom took to the streets in February to march on County Hall with their children, argued the informal model was working perfectly.

Since 2004, the cafe has seen more than 1,600 different women and their babies.

Chamber pleased by county's economy

THE chief executive of the Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce has said the county's economy was performing better than the "pessimistic" national economic figures which showed the UK was in recession.

It was announced last week the UK economy had contracted for the second consecutive quarter, meaning the economy was back in recession.

Paul Griffiths, chief executive of the Northamptonshire Chamber, said the data was based on only 40 per cent of information and did not reflect the "underlying trends" in the county's economy.

He said: "This return to recession is disappointing and paints an unduly pessimistic picture of the state of the economy.

"It is also contrary to what we have been hearing from the Northamptonshire companies in our membership.

"National business surveys, and our own local Quarterly Economic Survey, have shown a more positive picture, and I believe these give a more accurate indication of the underlying trends in the economy."

Park walk for Syria

A WALK around Abington Park will raise money for victims of the conflict in Syria. Northampton-based Muslim's womens organisation, Pearls of Peace, has organised the event to raise funds for Muslim Aid, which is currently providing humanitarian relief to Syrian refugees. The walk, starting at the bandstand, is for women and children only, and will take place on Sunday, May 27 from 3pm. There is no entry fee but a suggested donation of £3 per family. For more information and sponsorship forms call Northampton 947858. To donate go to www.justgiving.com/pearlsofpeacesyria walk.

Pie takes top prize

A NORTHAMPTONSHIRE pie, which is made up of chicken, ham, mushroom, buttered leeks and suet pastry, beat off competition from around 900 other pies to take the top prize at the British Pie Awards. The creation, by Dunkleys a Wellingborough firm, was named the winner in the hot pub pie category and went on to take the top prize and be named the Supreme Champion at the awards, which took place in Melton Mowbray on Wednesday night.

Library on the shortlist

WOOTTON Fields Library is one of only five libraries in the country to be shortlisted in The Bookseller Industry Awards 2012 Library Of The Year Award. The library is up against Edinburgh City Libraries, Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, Orkney Library & Archive and Stockton Central. The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony at the Hilton, Park Lane, London on May 14.

Author to sign books

A BOOK signing at Waterstones in Northampton will take place on Saturday, May 5. Jae De Wylde will sign copies of her debut novel, *The Thinking Tank*, from 10am to 4pm at the store.

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Charity ball at Saints

A CHARITY ball will be held at Northampton Saints rugby ground in aid of children's charity, Dreamflight. Money raised will go towards taking 192 seriously ill and disabled children on a holiday to Florida. The Goofy Ball, which is based on the Disney character, will include a three-course meal, a charity auction and appearance from ex-England cricketer, Allan Lamb. It takes place on May 18 and tickets cost £50. For details email cathryn.chadwick@btinternet.com.

Volunteers are needed

A YOUTH group in Long Buckby is looking for volunteers to help at its shop in the village. The This 'n' That project works with young people aged from 13 to 19 in the village and provides a weekly club on Tuesday evenings in the community centre. It also organises other trips and activities for young people. For details contact Jane Perryman on 01327 843761.

Try crafts at fun day

TASTER sessions in crafts, dog agility, fitness classes and first aid will be on offer at the fourth annual Daventry Fun Day hosted by Northampton College. There will be a fun fair, performances from local musicians and dance schools, and cream teas. Residents are invited to the college site, in Badby Road, from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, May 26. People interested in exhibiting or performing can call Jo Davies on Northampton 736295.

Take tea on bank holiday

BLUEBELL teas will be served in Everdon over the Bank Holiday Weekend. The village hall will be open between 10.30am and 5pm, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and will serve coffee, tea and cakes along with the chance to see the bluebells. All proceeds from the weekend will go to the Friends of Everdon Trust.

Gareth Southgate talking to employees, left, Glenn Butcher and Ricky Tomlin, during his visit to Carlsberg

Football pundit visits brewery

FORMER England defender Gareth Southgate visited the Carlsberg factory in Northampton as workers gear up for their busiest time of the year.

The ITV football pundit was at the Bridge Street headquarters in his role as Carlsberg brand ambassador and chatted to employees about his predictions for the European Championship tournament this summer.

His visit was designed to be a boost to staff at one of Northampton's largest private employees, and Mr Southgate wished the workers luck as they prepare for a busy period.

One billion pints of beer are brewed every year at the headquarters and the company said it is set for a bumper year.

Mr Southagte played for Aston Villa and Middlesbrough, who he also managed, and was capped by his country 57 times.

He is probably best known for his miss in the penalty shoot-out at Wembley stadium in the 1996 European Championship semi-final that eliminated England from the tournament.

France visit 'a boost for businesses'

A CONTROVERSIAL visit to an international property conference in the south of France saw 30 companies express an interest in doing business in Northamptonshire, the area's economic regeneration group has said.

The Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership (NEP) sent a representative to the annual MIPIM conference in Cannes last month.

During the event, NEP's representative was able to meet business leaders and developers from across the world and promote the idea of investing in Northamptonshire.

Tim Bagshaw, NEP's head of investment, said: "It was a very positive experience. We made contact with all sorts of people. We're progressing talks with 30 companies now, telling them what we've got to offer, such as the enterprise zone which is in Northampton and Silverstone in the south of the county.

"The whole event is really about making sure you're on the radar with these kind of people and that they're thinking about Northamptonshire."

Despite the number of organisations showing an interest in investing in Northamptonshire during the MIPIM visit, the practice of sending people from publicly-funded organisations to the South of France to find business for the county has long been controversial.

One of the county's politicians who has been most outspoken about organisations making trips to MIPIM over the years is independent county councillor Tony Clarke *(Ind, Castle)*. He said: "What I want to see from these trips is concrete results, not just expressions of interest. Then we'll know whether or not all these foreign trips represent value for money."

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Northampton-born actress Sophie Turner stars as Sansa Stark in the hit HBO television series, Game Of Thrones

Teenage actress starring in big TV drama in America

A TEENAGE actress starring in one of America's biggest dramas has revealed how she forgot to tell her mum she was auditioning for the part and how, despite the show's success, her life has not really changed.

Northampton-born Sophie Turner plays Sansa Stark in the HBO series *Game Of Thrones* which has recently returned to Sky Atlantic for a second series.

In the show, the 16-year-old plays a princess, engaged to Prince Joffrey Baratheon.

Speaking in a Sky Atlantic interview she said: "I was 13 when I auditioned. It's only been three years, my life hasn't changed that much.

"It's filmed during the summer holiday and feels like an extended holiday. I heard about it through my drama teacher; I owe everything to her. She'd heard about it and put me forward. Another drama teacher rang up my mum.

"He said 'it's just a small thing, it's not going to go anywhere, she's not going to get it', just to get her familiar with casting agents. A few weeks later I'm in the final seven, I forgot to tell my mum about it originally. It was at my school and it was during the school day, I didn't think to tell her about it."

Despite her on-screen role as a princess, she explains in real life, she is a bit 'abnormal' joking that hitting her older brothers helped her when she is acting in the medieval drama.

She added: "Nobody treats me like a princess, they just call me weird, especially my brothers.

"Around school, the younger years will be sitting chatting and I'll be running around with my friends playing tig or something, being really immature. I'm still a child."

In Monday night's episode, Sansa Stark was threatened with a crossbow by Joffrey as her brother started a battle against the Starks.

However, she admitted when he is out of character, he is 'one of the nicest and funniest actors on the show'.

Talking about her own character, she said: "Sansa is a brilliant character. She has two layers, her love for Joffrey but underneath you can see she loathes being there but she has to pretend to keep herself alive."

Game Of Thrones is on Sky Atlantic on Mondays at 9pm.

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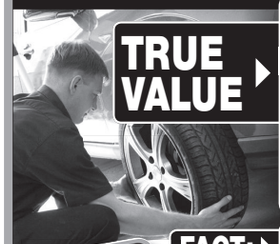

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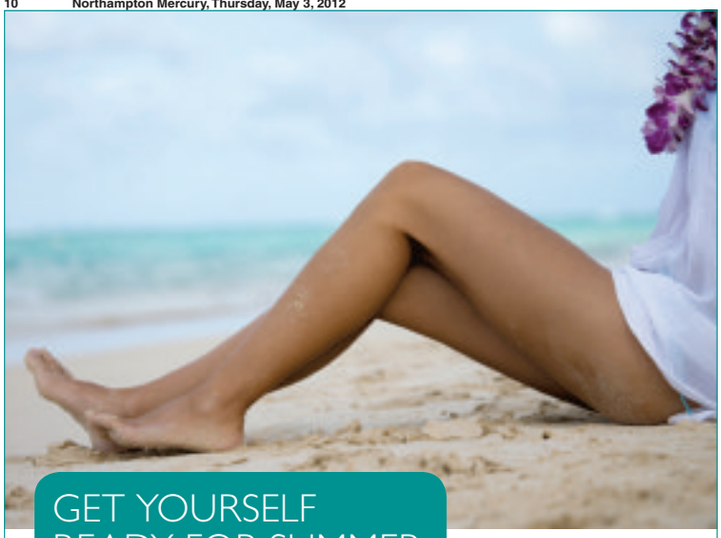

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Head announces plan to leave post

AN 'inspirational' headteacher who helped a secondary school in Northampton get out of special measures has announced he will leave his post at the start of June.

Geraint Parry, who took over Weston Favell Academy in September, is stepping down as headteacher due to a need to move to a different part of the country to deal with a serious family illness.

Since he has been in charge, Weston Favell has moved out of the 'inadequate' Ofsted category and inspectors found on their latest visit in March that the school had a "good capacity to sustain improvement".

Headteacher Geraint Parry

Mr Parry said he had loved working in Northampton and his decision to leave was purely a personal one, based on his need to be nearer his family in the north-west.

He said: "I feel as though I'm leaving Weston Favell in a much better position than when I started.

"I think the school is in very safe hands."

Barry Day, chief executive of the Greenwood Dale Trust, which sponsors the school, said he was extremely sad to see the headteacher leave.

He said: "Mr Parry has been an inspirational principal, driving up standards at Weston Favell and successfully moving the academy out of special measures, a designation that the predecessor school had been in for some time.

"However, when he approached us with a request to be released from his contract due to a family crisis we immediately did so on compassionate grounds.

"We believe in looking after our staff and it was the least we could do to support him at a difficult time.

"Mr Parry leaves with our thanks for such an outstanding job in the year he has been working for us.

"We also hope he will come back and work for us again at some point in the future."

After Mr Parry's departure at the end of the next half-term on June 1, Martyn Turner, an existing member of staff for Greenwood Dale Trust, will continue as executive headteacher at the academy and an interim headteacher will be announced in the next few days.

The full-time post of headteacher will be advertised in the national *Times Educational Supplement* newspaper this week.

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Nominate pub for an award

PUBS that are the hub of their community are to be highlighted in the Northamptonshire Food and Drink Awards.

The awards for community pub of the year aim to recognise venues that go the extra mile to look after their customers, beyond simply serving food and drinks.

The category, sponsored by the *Chronicle & Echo*, is divided into town and rural sections and last year's winners were The Malt Shovel Tavern, in Bridge Street, Northampton, and The Sun Inn at Hardingstone.

The Sun has had "a fantastic year" since winning the award, according to landlord Andy Pye, who said business was up year on year by more than 20 per cent, bucking the trend in the pub trade which is seeing venues struggling across the country.

And he said other landlords considering entering this year's competition should give it a go. He said: "It's a really prestigious award. I can't believe anybody wouldn't want to enter it."

The fact that the awards are voted for by the public was one of the most pleasing things about winning he said.

Andy had only been at the pub for eight months when they were nominated last year. He said: "It was a new team, it was great to be nominated but we didn't think we had much chance of winning when we saw who we were up against.

"But the locals got behind it. People were coming in to pick up a voting slip."

The pub tries to get involved in the community in numerous ways, including raising money for local charities such as the Scouts and the local community centre and sheltered housing, providing a free meeting place for local groups and events for families, such as a free Easter egg hunt earlier this month.

He said: "It's more than just somewhere to come to drink it's more of a meeting place. It's about being a massive part of the community."

Rachel Mallows, of The Mallows Company, which organises the awards said: "Unlike many of the other awards, where venues can enter for themselves, this category is about pub-goers saying a big 'thank you' to their local drinking hole.

"Many pubs play a vital part in keeping a sense of local spirit and often are at the heart of village or community life, so this is one way of their customers being able to show that it's really appreciated.

"Last year's finalists were selected because they offered those little extras, like a drive-home service, putting on tea dances or fund-raising events. It's that kind of service that make pubs such an important part of local community life and why they deserve to be recognised."

The award is one of 12 categories in the awards.

COMMUNITY PUB OF THE YEAR – NOMINATION FORM

Name and location of pub:.....

Why does it deserve to be Northamptonshire's Community Pub of the Year? (in no more than 100 words): .....

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One year on from family's murder

DETECTIVES hunting Anxiang Du are hoping an increased reward will prompt whoever is harbouring the suspected killer to give him up – after admitting a year-long, £1 million inquiry is yet to throw up a single confirmed sighting.

Officers admitted the search for one of Britain's most wanted men remains frustratingly far from fruition, with police still in the dark as to where the Chinese businessman, who is wanted on suspicion of a brutal quadruple murder, now is.

This week marks the first anniversary of the horrendous murders of Jifeng 'Jeff' Ding, Helen Chui and the pair's two daughters, Xing, aged 18, and Alice, aged 12.

At a press conference, organised to coincide with the anniversary, a senior detective admitted they have not had a single sighting of Du for a year, but denied increasing a reward for his capture was a desperate measure.

A £25,000 reward has now been put up for information leading to the capture and arrest of Du, who remains the only suspect for the murder of the Dings at their house in Pioneer Close, Simpson Manor, Wootton. Previously Crimestoppers had put forward a £10,000 reward.

The additional cash has been put up by Northamptonshire Police.

Detective Chief Inspector Tom Davies said the increased reward was linked to four arrests – including Du's wife and son – as well as a recent trip to China.

DCI Davies said the public, and more importantly family members of the Dings', could have confidence in the investigation, which is now focused on China.

He said: "From day one we have had the same size, core and dedicated team. We work with SOCA, we work with Interpol, we work with UKBA, as well as law enforcement agencies throughout Europe and in China. We are also working with Crimestoppers, most recently putting some information out throughout North America.

"I am really optimistic and positive that pressure on Anxiang Du and those assisting him will mean he is located and arrested."

The investigation into the worst murders to happen in Northampton for a generation was plagued by mistakes and incompetencies from the beginning.

Call room workers for Northamptonshire Police potentially missed a chance to catch the killer in the act, after a desperate 999 call made by Xing was incorrectly logged and then not followed up properly.

Traffic wardens then slapped nine parking tickets on a car, which Du is believed to have fled the murder scene in and then dumped in London. That set detectives further behind their prime suspect.

Asked if police were any closer to catching Du than they were 12 months ago, DCI Davies said: "I believe we are closer. That optimism is based on the fact that everything we are doing is logical and structured and is based on experience and is using every single facet of law enforcement. I have got to be confident it will work for us."

Police have revealed a total of nine people, including last week's four arrests, have so far been arrested as part of the murder probe. They include people across the UK who matched Du's appearance.

In the last 12 months, more than 2,000 people have been visited and interviewed as part of the probe, while more than 5,000 hours of CCTV seized from around the UK has been studied.

Police have received almost 400 sightings of Du, although none have been confirmed.

DCI Davies added: "There have been several challenges for us. My role as the senior investigating officer is to make sure the determination and focus of the investigation is positive.

"There will always be challenges in the investigation and that is something we as homicide detectives accept.

"In terms of reviewing it, I work with colleagues across the country who will offer advice and support, so there is a lot of work going on. I totally accept there will be challenges to us, whether it is in the UK or abroad but we are very positive and determined that those challenges are put to one side."

Asked if he thought he would catch Du in the coming 12 months, DCI Davies added: "When I was in China I was asked a very similar question and all I can say is I will not set a deadline.

"All I can do is set a determination to say yes, we will catch him, as long as it takes."

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main suspect remains at large

Detective Chief Inspector Tom Davies at the press conference in Wootton Hall updating the public on the hunt for Anxiang Du, the main suspect in the murder of the Ding family, pictured above left and right

Officers visit shrine in China

THE officer leading the hunt for Anxiang Du has revealed he visited a shrine to the murdered Dings to pay his respects during a recent visit to China.

Three detectives flew out to Beijing last month, where they met Chinese police and law enforcement agencies, as the hunt for the suspected killer now focuses on the Far East.

Detectives confirmed they now believe someone helped Du flee the county in the days following the murders last April, on the day of the Royal Wedding.

Detective Chief Inspector Tom Davies, leading the investigation, said: "We accept Anxiang Du had the opportunity to leave the country soon after the murders and someone most likely will have assisted him in doing this, or will be assisting him now.

"It may be that someone has unwittingly assisted him and we need that person to contact us."

Four people were arrested last week on suspicion of helping a suspected criminal. They are believed to include 53-year-old Du's wife, son and a business acquaintance from Gloucester.

Police have also released photographs of a shrine to the Ding family in Hangzou, China.

Jifeng Ding was a university lecturer in Manchester, while his wife Helen Chui was a business woman and teacher at Caroline Chisholm School. Their daughters Xing and Alice were both supremely talent students and musicians.

DCI Davies, added: "While in China we met the wider family including the grandparents who explained the significance of the national remembrance day on April 4 called Tomb Sweeping Day where family visited the shrines to pay their respects.

"It was a very sensitive time for them, which we understood and respected and it further reinforced our determination to locate our suspect."

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Pictured left, a 'chugger' in Abington Street, Northampton

ASBO bid to ban from the streets

OFFICIALS at Northampton Borough Council are investigating whether they can use anti-social behaviour laws to ban 'chugging' in the town centre.

Last week, the leader of the authority, Councillor David Mackintosh (*Con, Rectory Farm*) announced a crackdown on charity collectors who try to sign people up to direct debit agreements in the street.

Ironically, just days later, he was approached by one of the chuggers, or 'charity-muggers' in Abington Street and has since said the 'rude' treatment he received has made him more determined than ever to stamp out the practice in Northampton.

He said: "We're looking at all the options. It could be that we create new by-laws or use antisocial behaviour legislation.

"We just want to make sure what we put in place works.

"From my own experience, the guy who stopped me the other day was quite rude.

"It seems their only purpose is to sign people up to direct debits and I believe people can find them very intimidating and actually quite uncharitable."

Legal experts at the Guildhall are now planning the council's next step. But Councillor Mackintosh has indicated he will not accept a recommendation by the group which regulates 'chuggers', the Public Fundraising Regulatory Authority (PFRA) to simply limit the amount of visits fundraisers can make to Northampton town centre each week.

He said: "It's not about the numbers, it's about the level of intimidation there is."

The PFRA however argued that cases of street fundraisers actually harassing people were very rare.

The organisation added: "Of course, this is not to say that some fund-raisers don't break the code or overstep the mark.

"We run a mystery shopping programme and receive complaints so we know they do.

"But we also know unprofessional behaviour is rare.

"If people have been treated badly by a fund-raiser, that's unacceptable and we would urge them to complain to the relevant charity.

"However, we'd respectfully suggest that the very act of fundraising is not the same thing as 'harassment'."

Reporter Wayne Bontoft with a chugger

FACT File

CHARITY fund raisers, or 'chuggers' as they have become disparagingly known, are certainly unpopular among the majority of people in Northampton - our online poll where more than 90 per cent of those who responded said they should be banned from the town centre, has proved that.

But are the they actually as bad as they are painted? To test the theory, I went to Abington Street with the specific aim of being stopped.

The man who eventually stopped me was raising money for a charity which

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r £180 a year) was only the equivalent of 'a few trips to Greggs a week'.

While that may be true, I stuck to my argument that I would not sign up to a financial agreement in the street and asked for some of the charity's literature instead.

Unfortunately he had none, so I walked away feeling guilty while I assume he was annoyed that I had wasted his time.

Overall, it was not a pleasant experience. I was left feeling tremendously guilty that I had not agreed to help anyone, but I stand by my view that people should not be 'guilted' into signing agreements for large amounts of money in the middle of a busy high street.

With teams of the fund-raisers regularly working in Abington Street, if people signed up every time they were stopped, they could soon end up in serious financial trouble. Surely that cannot be the best way to raise money for charity?

Wayne Bontoft

Heels and jewellery 'danger'

AN EU proposal which could see hairdressers banned from wearing high heels and jewellery has been labelled "barmy" by an East Midlands MEP.

An agreement is due to be signed between EU Coiffure, a group of European salon bosses, and UNI Europa hair and beauty, the European trade union for hairdressers proposing hairdressers should be prevented from wearing heels in case of "slips and trips."

The agreement also proposes that rings and bracelets be banned because of the potential for the jewellery to be unhygienic.

UKIP's Derek Cark, the party's employment spokesman, said the proposals, which are set to go before Brussels bureaucrats were "daft and typical of the red tape nonsense coming out of Europe."

The proposals, which have been suggested by European lobbyists, could also mean hairdressers having to carefully plan their working day to ensure they have regular conversations with colleagues and do not carry out too many haircuts a day to prevent stress.

Mr Clark said: "What absolute nonsense. This is barmy – this would be yet more red tape to strangle small businesses. How many hairdressers have ever come a cropper because of wearing high heels at work?

"And taking time for regular chats – what about other lines of work? Should it now become law we all take regular breaks to chat with colleagues - words fail me."

Mr Clark said health and safety was important but there were enough regulations and the latest ideas were both vague and intrusive. The National Hairdressers Federation are unnecessary and potentially onerous for UK salons.

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Runners were not put off by the rain

RUNNERS braved the weekend's wet and cold weather to support a Northampton charity which helps sufferers of child abuse.

The Race to End Child Abuse 5km run took place at The Racecourse in Northampton on Saturday, to raise funds for the Truth and Hope charity.

Just under 30 people took part in the annual event – which included running a lap and three quarters of the park – and raised about £1,500.

Founder of the charity, Emma Clarke, who started Truth and Hope in 2010, said the funds would be used to send child abuse sufferers to free therapy sessions and healing workshops.

She said: "We want to help victims of child abuse.

"There are not many resources out there to help sufferers so we want to do whatever we can for them.

"We're so grateful of the support we've received and we really appreciate that people turned up and braved the bad weather conditions. The money will make a huge difference to the charity."

Last year's event, which saw 60 people complete the course and raised more than £2,500, funded the charity's second annual child protection rally in Trafalgar Square.

The charity has a second sponsored run planned in London on May 27 to raise more funds.

Miss Clarke said: "As a charity, the idea is that we affiliate with other grass roots organisations that provide services to sufferers of child abuse.

"Sufferers often can't afford to pay high prices for therapy themselves, but they would really benefit from the treatment so we want to be able to provide it for them."

She added: "We hope that in the future we can train our own councillors and offer a centre which provides free therapy for sufferers."

For more details about the charity or to take part in the even in London visit www.truthandhope.co.uk

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An emotional time for the new priest in charge at All Saints

THE new priest-in-charge at All Saints Church in Northampton town centre said he felt a "remarkable mixture of emotions" during his installation ceremony.

American-born Father David McConkey was officially licensed in his position as rector at the town's civic church on Saturday.

The ceremony was attended by the town's two MPs, the Mayor of Northampton, the leaders of Northampton Borough and Northamptonshire County councils as well as the Rev Donald Allister, the Bishop of Peterborough.

Mr McConkey, who became tearful at one point in the ceremony, said: "It was just remarkable. It is such an extraordinary building opening right out into the heart of the town.

"I felt a mixture of all the emotions. Everything comes together."

Mr McConkey, is the first permanent priest at All Saints for three years and he will now lead Northampton in important ceremonies such as Remembrance, Easter and Christmas services.

During his ceremony, he thanked the congregation for "welcoming a stranger into their midst".

Conservative MP for Northampton South, Brian Binley, said: "I'm delighted that All Saints now has a permanent guardian.

"You could see he was very moved by the induction ceremony and the service was very moving.

"I wish him every success in what must be one of the most difficult jobs in the town."

Conservative MP for Northampton North Michael Ellis said: "It was a very moving service. This is the civic centre of the town. Many of the most important ceremonies in the town take place at the church and I'm very pleased Father McConkey has now been installed."

Councillor Jamie Lane, the Mayor of Northampton, added: "It is good to have a leader of the church and he seems to be a charismatic personality. I look forward to seeing him in action."

Mr McConkey, who was born in Kansas and has a Master of Music degree from Yale University, said he was drawn to All Saints partly because of his love for music. His installation ceremony included a performance by the choir of Boys and Men and the Girls' Choir.

Mr McConkey said: "All Saints is not a cathedral but it is cathedral-esque, to coin a word.

"It's Anglo-Catholic in that it has the type of Roman Catholic worship that existed before the 1960s, with singing and incense and other things.

"It has a certain cache and reputation and a very strong music department, and all this is part of the attraction."

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Dignitaries from Northampton and the wider county attended the installation of the new priest-in-charge at All Saints Church, Father David McConkey on Saturday

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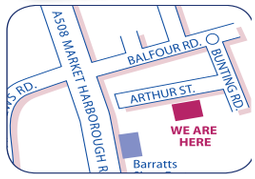

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Drought still on

STATISTICIANS have revealed 27mm of rainfall fell in torrential downpours across Northamptonshire on Sunday, prompting fears of possible flooding in low-lying areas.

The figures, provided by Pitsford Hall weather station, showed Sunday was comfortably the worst day for rainfall this month and added to concerns parts of the county may find themselves underwater.

A flood warning was issued for the Cogenhoe Mill area, forcing the evacuation of nearby caravan parks.

A spokesman for the Environment Agency said: "Further rainfall is forecast for the next few days. Levels in the brooks and rivers will remain high for the foreseeable future.

"At this point it is likely that only low-lying land and roads near the river are likely to be affected, but we will continue to monitor the situation closely and issue further flood alerts and flood warnings if the situation changes."

But despite the heavy rainfall, the county remains in drought and the subject of a hosepipe ban.

Despite persistent rain in April which helped boost the water level of the River Nene, flows are still at just 60 per cent of their long-term average.

Boating event is cancelled because of too much water

A WATERWAYS gathering which had been threatened by the ongoing drought, has been postponed this weekend . . . because there is now too much water.

Torrential downpours over the past fortnight, culminating in prolonged heavy rain over the weekend, has forced Environment Agency officials to issue flood warnings and close a section of the River Nene to navigation in Northamptonshire over fears water levels could pose a danger to boaters.

The annual Northampton Boat Gathering on the River Nene at Becket's Park this weekend, which was set to celebrate the opening of the new Northampton Marina, has now been put on hold.

The move comes just weeks after British Waterways closed the Northampton arm of the Grand Union Canal because of a lack of rain in previous months in an attempt to conserve water through the drought.

Bernard Morton, chairman of the Northampton Inland Waterways Association which organises the boat gathering, said: "Too much rather, than too little water, has caused the postponement.

"Several weeks ago it was thought the gathering would have to be curtailed because of water restrictions on the 17-lock, four and a half mile long Northampton Arm of the Grand Union Canal from Gayton Junction to the Nene at Far Cotton.

"Agreement was reached with British Waterways to allow the event to go ahead with a six-day opening of the Arm.

"But now the heavy rains have led to flood conditions on the River Nene, closing it to navigation and resulting in river-based boats downstream of Northampton not being able to get to Becket's Park.

"Because a good number of the boats planning to attend the gathering are on the Nene, it has been decided to postpone the event until later this year, probably until the August Bank Holiday weekend.

"By that time it is hoped the water shortage situation on the canals will have been resolved."

The British Waterways said it was taking advice from the Environment Agency about when to temporarily open the arm to allow boaters to move around.

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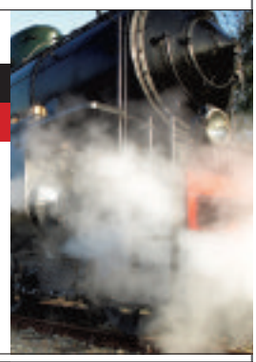

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'I'm so proud of my family . . . all 87 of them!' says Lily, aged 80

A GREAT-GRANDMOTHER from Northampton has celebrated her 80th birthday by raising a glass to her descendants – all 87 of them.

Lily Green, of Kingsthorpe, who has 10 children and 77 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, enjoyed a party at Kingsthorpe Bowling Club on Saturday night.

Mrs Green, who has lived in Northampton most of her life, said her seven daughters and three sons had all had a "good upbringing" and she was very proud of all her family.

She said: "When I was a mother I always coped. You just do what comes natural to you.

"The kids always say they loved my cooking and even now they say the same when I cook for them."

Mrs Green's daughter Dinah Philora, said the party had been organised to recognise the effort the 80-year-old had put into bringing up her family.

She said: "I remember when we had dinner that we would all stand in a line like in a school canteen and if there was none left at the end then she would go without.

"I had an amazing childhood. I always had a brother or sister to play with and I never went without.

"She has been an absolutely amazing mother, I could not have wished for better.

"I wanted to have this party for her to show how truly amazing she has been for all of us."

Mrs Green also has family in Cyprus, a place where she lived with her late husband John, who was in the 14th Infantry Brigade for 15 years after the end of World War Two.

Mrs Green, whose husband died in 1988, said: "I've had an eventful life and I've moved around a lot.

"My husband was in the forces and we lived in Cyprus and Germany twice.

"I was in Cyprus when there was a big earthquake and when it was invaded.

"My husband spent six months in Burma and he was severely injured in a car crash in Germany."

Mrs Green has previously worked at Waitrose in Kingsthorpe and some of the employees from the nearby Asda supermarket performed some Bollywood dancing at her birthday party.

Lily Green celebrates her 80th birthday with many of her family – which totals 87 descendants – at a party held at Kingsthorpe Bowling Club

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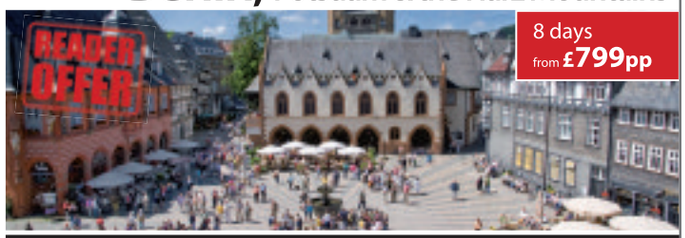

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Mike Henson (left) and John Clipston get to view work at Carlsberg with site engineer Jake Hanson

Trip into the past for brewery staff

TWO former Carlsberg workers, who had a chance this week to tour the firm's latest expansion project, said they were delighted the company was creating new jobs in Northampton.

Both Mike Henson and John Clipston started work at the old Phipps' brewery before moving on to Carlsberg.

They were invited back to the site this week to see the remains of the former Phipps building, which have been unearthed as Carlsberg carries out work to build a new bottling hall in a former car park.

Mr Henson used to be Carlsberg's chief chemist. The 75-year-old Deanshanger resident said: "It's been a shattering experience for me to come back. I've not set foot on the site since I retired. I find it difficult to even drive past.

"But what they're doing with the new bottling hall is wonderful.

"I'm delighted they're still brewing on this site and the number of jobs this new development will create is wonderful.

"Carlsberg is a great company to work for. They were always wonderful to me."

Mr Clipston, who was Carlsberg's customs and excise officer until he retired, also welcomed the new jobs being created, although he said it was sad they came following the closure of the firm's brewery in Leeds.

The 77-year-old, from Moulton, said: "It's a real benefit to the town that this work is going on.

"It's going to bring a lot more jobs into Northampton, which is great.

"I feel very sorry for those people in Leeds who have lost their jobs, but this development is good news for Northampton.

"It's a Godsend for the town and it's lovely that Carlsberg invited us down to have a look at the work that's going on."

The new bottling line will be capable of producing 60,000 bottles of beer an hour.

It is being built on the site of the landmark Phipps building which was demolished in 1973.

The new building should be completed by early next year.

It is hoped the development will create about 60 new jobs at the brewery.

Entertainment

THE BACKSTAGE story of the making of cult movie What Ever Happened To Baby Jane? comes to the Royal & Derngate this week.

Telling the story behind the film, Anton Burge's new play Bette And Joan, starring actresses Anita Dobson and Greta Scacchi, arrives at theatre from Tuesday.

After the success of the production in London's West End, Anita Dobson (recently seen in BBC One's Strictly Come Dancing) and Greta Scacchi (fresh from appearing on stage in David Williamson's new play, Nothing Personal) reprise their roles in this national tour of Bette And Joan.

Legendary Hollywood divas Bette Davis and Joan Crawford only worked together once, on the gothic horror What Ever Happened To Baby Jane? However, such was the explosive nature of the film and the stories surrounding the making of it, plus the critical and public reaction, that fifty years later, the picture is now regarded as a cult masterpiece.

But it is also a film that continues to fascinate, not only for what went on in front of the camera, but also behind it.

Set over the course of a single day, during the 'Baby Jane' shoot, Bette And Joan chronicles what happens to the two actresses as they prepare to face the cameras and, ultimately, each other, and what goes on when the cameras stop.

It is a play that deals with celebrity and ego, exploring how Hollywood deals with age and women, and shows the two superstars at not only their most courageous but also most vulnerable, as they weigh up the battle of what is the greater – art or stardom?

Part monologue, part dialogue, the audience is privy to the women at their most intimate as they dress, make-up and discuss their lives, loves and losses, and each other...

Bette And Joan is directed by Bill Alexander who has regularly worked at the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre.

The play can be seen on the Royal stage from Tuesday to Saturday, May 12, at 7.45pm with matinees at 2.30pm on Thursday and Saturday. Tickets – priced from £25.50 to £9.50 – can be booked on 01604 624811 or at www.royalandderngate.co.uk

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Entertainment

SATURDAY

MUSIC

Blisworth: The Dark Sinatras (rock band), Walnut Tree, Station Road.
Brafield: Mike Bremmick (vocalist), WMC, Bedford Road (A428), 7.30pm; food available.
Northapton: Beer and Cider Festival, The Lamplighter, Overstone Road; craft fair 2pm-6pm; Moondogs Beatles tribute, 9pm; music until 1am.
Northampton: Ambush, King Billy, bottom of Bridge Street.
Northampton: Grand Gauttro (rock & pop band), The Romany, Kingsley Road.
Northampton: Adrenalin (rock & funk covers band), Thomas a Becket, St James Road, 9pm.
Northampton: Stolen Mojo, Molly's Bar, Abington Square.
Northampton: Paula Swann, British Rail Club, St Andrew's Road, 8.30pm.
Northampton: Minky G and Rosco, Lord Byron, Kingsley Park Terrace, 8.30pm.
Northampton: Myke B, Northampton WMC, Sheep Street.
Northampton: Honeywell, Kingsley Park WMC.

THEATRE

Northampton: *Shappi Khorsandi*, Royal stage, 7.45pm. Box office 01604 624811.
Northampton: *Grease*, Derngate stage, 5pm and 8pm. Box office 01604 624811.

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Badby Woods: Bluebell weekend and cream teas (Sat, Sun & Mon).
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Earls Barton: My Little Vintage and Hand-Made Fair, All Saints' Church, 11am-3pm; over 20 stalls; refreshments.
Flore: Flore Art Club exhibition, Chapel Schoolrooms (King's Lane and along Nether Lane); official opening with light refreshments, Sat 5pm-8pm (also Sun & Mon 10.30am-5pm; teas).
Harlestone: Art exhibition and sale of paintings by Duston Art Group, St Andrew's Church, Sat & Sun, 11am-5pm; refreshments.
Northampton: Craft fair, The Lamplighter, Overstone Road, 2pm-6pm.
Northampton: Costume Store Tour, Museum & Art Gallery, Guildhall Road, 10.30am-midday; tickets £3.50 from the museum or call 01604 838111.
Northampton: Jumble sale, Kingsthorpe Baptist Church Rooms (rear of Waitrose), 10am.

OTHER

Northampton: Art in the Park, exhibition, Abington Park Museum, May 5-June 17 – a platform for the best local artists.
Northampton: Northampton Younger Persons' Parkinsons Support Group for age 65 and under, Queen Adelaide, Kingsthorpe village, 10.30am.
Roade: Roade Bowls Club Beer Festival from midday; barbecue, 1966 World Cup followed by the Cup Final Liverpool v Chelsea.
Sywell: Sywell Aviation Museum, Sywell Aerodrome, next to The Aviator, open Sats, Suns & bank holidays, 10.30am-4.30pm; free.

SUNDAY

MUSIC

Blisworth: Jazzin' Around presents Cool Jazz with Elaine Hatton, Alan Wakeman, Walnut Tree, Station Road, midday-2.30pm; adm £6; food available.
Brafield: The Soul Singer Martin McDonnell, WMC, Bedford Road (A428), 7pm; food available.
Northampton: Accrington Stanley, 2.30pm; Beer Festival, Malt Shovel, 121 Bridge Street (opp Carlsberg).
Northampton: Americana Roots open stage, Thomas a Becket, St James Road, 7pm*.
Northampton: Beer and Cider Festival, live music from Aspen Sails and Blair DJ + support, The Lamplighter, Overstone Road until 1am.
Northampton: Jake Young, 2pm-5pm, British Rail Club, St Andrew's Road.
Northampton: Soul nite, Lord Byron, Kingsley Park Terrace, 7pm.
Northampton: Acoustic open mic jam session, Fox and Hounds, Harborough Road, 8pm*.
Northampton: Jazz night, The Longboat, Eastfield Road, Duston*.
Northampton: Sean Grew and Callum McManus, Spread Eagle, Wellingborough Road, 5.30pm-9pm.
Northampton: Rik King, Kingsley Park WMC, Kingsley Park Terrace.
Roade: Roade Bowls Club Beer Festival from midday; barbecue; Gary Beckwith rock 'n' roll, 8pm.

THEATRE

Northampton: We'll Meet Again, Derngate stage, 2.30pm. Box office 01604 624811.

Entertainment

Disney's power of love

MORE than 20 years after Beauty And The Beast became the first animated feature to contest the Oscar for Best Picture, Disney's "tale as old as time" returns to multiplexes in a glorious new 3D print.

Gary Trousdale and Kirk Wise's fairytale still casts a heady spell, fashioning glorious family entertainment from the familiar European folk tale, with the clever additions of talking furniture and infectious songs.

The tunes, conjured by composer Alan Menken and lyricists Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, are jaunty and lyrically wicked ("I'm especially good at expectorating!").

They are the musical equivalent of sherbet, fizzing pleasantly on the tongue, building to a rousing crescendo with the Busby Berkeley-esque Be Our Guest with lothario candlestick Lumiere as the crazed ringmaster of a three-ring kitchen circus.

Ballads gently tug the heartstrings, particularly Belle and the Beast's dance beneath a twinkling chandelier performed to the haunting theme song.

But it's the film's huge heart which beats loudest, reducing us to tears as the final petal of the enchanted rose falls.

The story follows spirited Belle (voiced by Paige O'Hara) as she swaps places with her inventor father (Rex Everhart) as prisoner of the accursed Beast (Robby Benson) and falls for her hirsute host.

Musclebound rival suitor Gaston (Richard White) leads the torch-wielding villagers against the Beast but the rabble meets its match in the enchanted servants led by tightly wound pendulum clock Cogsworth (David Ogden Stiers) and flirtatious candlestick Lumiere (Jerry Orbach).

Beauty And The Beast is arguably Disney's finest hand-drawn animation, edging ahead of The Little Mermaid and The Lion King in terms of heartfelt emotion.

We completely believe the relationship between the central characters, and their love for each other.

Gaston is a delicious, swaggering villain, with a cleft chin that could topple empires, while Cogsworth and Lumiere provide much of the comic relief, some of it going above the heads of younger audiences.

"If it ain't baroque, don't fix it!" jests the clock during a guided tour of the castle's impressive architecture.

The screen bursts with colour throughout and even though the animation looks dated now, which is to be expected, the characters still retain impressive detail, especially in their facial expressions.

The film is preceded by an amusing animated short, Tangled Ever After, which continues the romance of Rapunzel (voiced by Mandy Moore) and her handsome suitor (Zachary Levi) to their disaster-laden wedding day.

Trusty steed Maximus and cheeky chameleon Pascal are at the epicentre of the devastation, chasing after wayward wedding rings on clattering hooves and by floating lanterns at a frenetic pace.

It's delightful fluff that perfectly compliments the heady romance and rumbustious humour of the main feature.

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Family Announcements

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Births

It's a boy!

Jude Marc Bradshaw
Jason Bradshaw & Jade Hollowell are proud to announce the birth of their son born 17.04.12 weighing 8lb5oz. Best Wishes Love both Families x

BURNAPP BLAND
Karl & Catherine
A beautiful Son
JACK GEORGE
born Monday 23rd April 2012 6lb 3oz
Brother for Katy and Leo
Lots of love from all your family
x x
Also thanks to Home Birthing Team Selena and Sally

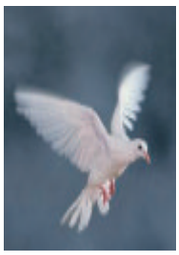
Maybury (Nee White)
Congratulations Michelle and Justin on the Birth of **Jacob Derek John (Jake)** weighing 10lb 8oz at 10:30am on 27th April 2012. New Grandson for Yvonne and Derek. Baby Brother for Harry and Cousin for Fayza. Love and best wishes, Mum, Dad, Emma and Ali xxx

Marriages

THOMPSON PEARCE
Congratulations Louise and Andrew on your forthcoming Wedding on 5th May at Dodmoor House, Weedon. Every happiness for the future Love Mum, Dad, Karen, Oli, Lucy & Sophie x

Obituaries

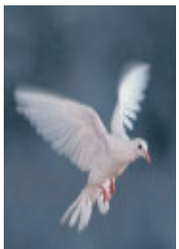
CLARKE
Margaret
Passed away peacefully on 22nd April 2012, aged 85.
Dear Mother in Law of Sue and the late John, Auntie of Nicola, Paul and Daniel, Great Grandma of Holly and Harry.
Will be sadly missed forever in our hearts.



DONALDSON
Charles "Ed"
Of Burlington Court Care Home, died peacefully in Hospital on 25th April 2012, aged 91.
Much loved and greatly missed
Husband of Joan and Father of Tricia.
The Funeral Service will be held on Thursday 10th May at 11.45am at The Chapel of The Counties Crematorium, Milton Malsor. No flowers by request, donations by cheque for "British Red Cross" in his memory may be sent to Co-operative Funeral Services, 22 Stockley Street, Northampton, NN1 5EY.

HARDING
Paul William
Sadly taken from us April 20th 2012.
Beloved Husband of Brenda.
Your suffering is no more my darling.
Only the pain of you going remains.
My everlasting love xxx
Funeral Arrangements to follow.

HARDING
Paul (tiny)
Passed away 20.04.12
Much loved Dad to Donna. Grandad to Chantelle, Matty, Morgen, Mikayla, Naomi and Jordan. Great Grandad to baby Rhys.
It's time to rest with no more pain.
Until the time we meet again.
We wished you didn't have to go.
Our hearts are heavy we loved you so.
Your ever loving Family xx



Obituaries

DENNY
Ethel
Passed away 29th April, aged 85.
Beloved Wife of Jim for 64 years,
Mother to Maureen and the late Trevor,
Mother in Law to Terry and Brigitte.
Loved and remembered always.
x x
Funeral arrangements to follow.

DENNY
Ethel
Lovingly known as Nan Denny to her five Grandchildren and their partners. Also to her eight Great Grandchildren.
Goodnight, God Bless.
x x

HARDING
Paul (Tiny)
Passed away 20th April aged 55
Loving Son to Bill & Norma
Brother to Lian
Uncle to Danni & Jason
Sadly missed by all his family
Forever remembered
Rest peacefully

HOUGHTON — Zena. 79 years, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family. Sadly missed Mum of Debbie and Paul. Gran to Paul, Kim, Charlotte and Richard. Great Gran to Keeley and Kian. Forever in our hearts. Good Night, God Bless. x x x

HOUGHTON — Zena. Beloved Wife of John (deceased). Passed away peacefully in NGH aged 79, on 24th April, surrounded by loving family. Wonderful Mum, Mother-in-law and Gran to Peter, Wife Julie and Children, Christy, Kerri and Sophie. In our hearts forever, Good Night, God Bless.

HOUGHTON — Zena Elizabeth. Passed away 24th April 2012. Now at peace. Dearly loved Mum of Carol and Will. Gran to Jamie, Jack and Carly. Great Gran to Ellie. We will love and miss you always x x x

Obituaries

HOUGHTON — Zena. Sister-in-law to Paul and Sandra, Auntie to Joy, James and family. Reunited with John and Denise. Good night, God bless.

HOUGHTON
Zena
Nee Kellett
Aged 79 years, passed away on 24th April 2012 at Northampton General Hospital.
Beloved Wife of the late John, much loved Mum of Carol, Debbie, Peter and the late Denise. Dearly loved Gran and Great Gran.
Will be sadly missed by all, R.I.P
xxx

McCLELLAND — James. Our dearest Uncle and friend we will always remember your smile and sense of humor. Good night Murphy and God bless. Love always John, Becky and Grace.

McCLELLAND — James. Beloved Brother and Brother-in-law to the late Paddy and Kathleen. Dear Uncle to Patrick, Bernadette, James Kathryn, John and families. Deepest sympathy to Rose and Family. Rest In Peace Jim.

O'SULLIVAN — Ann. Peacefully on April 14th. Deepest sympathy to Jerry and all the family. Maureen and Frank.

PANTER
Rita Lilian
Much loved Mum of Lynne and Jack, Jazz. Nan to Lee, Marc and Suzanne. Nanny to Lacey, Deanna, Tai and Kiean.
Greatly missed by us all but never forgotten.
Reunited with Dad.

PANTER
Rita Lilian
Beloved Mum died peacefully on 24th April 2012.
Now reunited with Dad.
Love always
Ian and Diane.

PANTER — Rita Died 24th April 2012. Good bye old friend, you leave some great memories, so until we meet again, good night, God Bless. Love Connie and Family.

PRIMROSE, — Mummy, Penny, Ivy, Missing you all, We love you. Hebrews 3:12. God Bless, R.I.P. Love Philippa and family.

Obituaries

MORAN
Cynthia
(Pat)
Passed away 29th April 2012, aged 83 years.
Loving Mum to Lynne and Michael.
Grandmother to Shelley, Bean and Jason.
Great Grandmother to Charlotte and Lacie-Jae.
At peace now but will be missed so much.
Funeral will take place at Northampton Crematorial on 14th May at 2pm.
Family flowers only but donations to Cancer Reaserch UK c/o
S.E.Wilkinson and Son,
30 Grove Road,
Northampton ,
NN1 3LQ.
Tel: 01604 637 852.

PURKIS
Donald
(Don)
Deepest sympathy to Daphne and all the family. May he Rest In Peace. From Terry and Maureen

RAPPITT — Cliff Good night and Rest In Peace Pap. Lots of love from Andrea, Andy, Hayden, Luke, Georgia and Chloe xxxxxx

RAPPITT — Cliff Passed away in his sleep, aged 86, loved Pap of Stephen and Steph and Great Grandad to James. R.I.P. God Bless xxx

STRANGE
Len
Passed away 26/04/2012.
Goodnight Brother.
We shared good times and bad,
but we will always remember you with a smile.
Sleep tight.
Love Rod and Rose
x

WILLIS
William (Bill)
Passed away on 25th April 2012.
Dear Husband to Barbara. Loving Father to Dexter and the late Anthony and Louise. Loving Grandad to Amy and Chelsie and Grand Grandad to Ellie-Lou.
Very much loved and will be sadly missed.
Funeral arrangement to follow.

WRIGHT — (Frank) Jack. After a long illness, will be sadly missed. From you Sister Dorothy. x x

WRIGHT
Jack
Died 27th April.
Rest in peace Jack.
Gone to Join his Wife Molly.
Each time we play cards we will think of you.
Love from June, Frank, Julie, Pete, Steve, Sam, Ellie-Rose, Lewis, Ollie and Matty.
x x x

In Memoriam

CLARKE
Adam 'Clarkey'
April 27th 2006.
Another year passes us by...but never a day goes by without us thinking of you.
We love and miss you so very much.
Mum,Dad and Rob.
xxxxxxx

CLARKE — Adam. April 27th 2006. Precious memories of our dear Grandson. Love always, Nana and Grandad.

FOWLER — Joyce. In loving memory of Joyce Fowler who passed away April 29th 2008 and Tommy (Flash Fowler) who passed away May 4th 2009. Thoughts go back to happy days when we were all together. The family chain is broken now but memories live forever. Rest in Peace from all the Family.

GIBBS — Doris May In loving memory of devoted Mother who passed away 30th April 2011. Much missed and remembered. Tony x

Acknowledgements

SMITH
James
Jimmy's family would like to express their thanks and appreciation for the many tributes, cards and flowers received from relatives, friends and neighbours, also for the donations received for the Cynthia Spencer Hospice, in his memory.
Our special thanks go to the Doctors, Nurses and other staff at the Cynthia Spencer Hospice; the ICCM Carers; Dr Evans, the District Nurses and staff at the Surgery in Clarence Avenue - for their excellent care and comfort during this time.

In Memoriam

HAMMERSLEY
Terry
My loving memory of my dear Husband Terry who died 2nd May 2011 aged 80 & our Son Paul who died April 10th 1975 aged 17.
We love & miss you every day.
God bless you both Pat, Yvonne, Cliff, Daniel & Emma.

HAMMERSLEY
Derick
01.05.05
My Dear Husband
Life goes on
I know that's true but it's not the same without you.
Love Sylvia x

HILL
Sonya
May 3rd 1999.
Treasured memories of our beautiful Sonya.
Loved and longed for as ever by all her family.
x x
Dearly loved and missed Mum to Jordanne and Ethan.
Remains the wind beneath our wings
x x

LONG
Stan
Left us 30.04.2010
Dear Husband of Thelma and dear Dad of Keith.
Still missing you.
Love you always x

LONG
Stan
Passed away 30.04.2010
Dear Brother of Joan and Brenda.
Remembered always.x

In Memoriam

LONG
Stanley
Sadly passed away 30th April 2010.
Loving Dad and Grandad, always in our thoughts and hearts.
Roy, Julie, Hannah and Matthew.

OAKEY
Doris
Passed away 29-04-2007
Sadly missed by all the family x

Northampton Chronicle & Echo
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Birthday Memories

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Kenneth
35th Birthday-27th April 2012
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xx Your heartbroken Mum & Dad xx

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Family Announcements & Bereavements
Appear Tues-Fri deadline is day prior at 4pm. Appear Sat deadline is 11.45pm Fri. Mon deadline is Fri 3.45pm.

Classified Display & Lineage
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Entertainments

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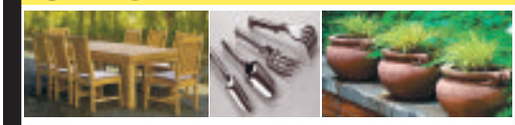
5th 6th & 7th MAY



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Entertainments

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A Public Exhibition is being held for a proposed Continuing Care Retirement Community to comprise 60 Bed Nursing Home; 30 Close-Care Apartments; 10 Close-Care Cottages. The exhibition has been arranged for: Tuesday 8th May 2012, at Brixworth Library & Community Centre, Spratton Road, Brixworth, NN6 9DS -from 3pm – 7.30pm. Members of the public are invited to attend the exhibition.

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To apply for any of the above posts please call the Recruitment Line on 0300 303 1289 or email thera@moorleys.co.uk stating the role of interest and quoting reference Northants.

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Further details and the application form are only available from Complementary Education County Office, Northampton on 01604 239734.

Please note the on-line application form is not acceptable.

Closing date: 5 pm Monday 14th May 2012.

Interview date: Week commencing 21st May 2012.

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Closing date: 17 May 2012.

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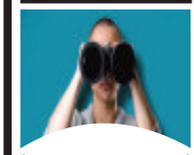

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Mercury Sport

FANS' TOP MAN – Michael Jacobs receives his Northampton Town *Chronicle & Echo* Supporters' player of the year award from *Chron* football writer Jefferson Lake (right) and sports writer Steve Walsh

PICTURE: KELLY COOPER

Aidy warning for in-demand Jacobs

AIDY BOOTHROYD has urged Michael Jacobs to be cautious when receiving advice from those around him who would "make a lot of money" if the player was to leave the Cobblers.

The young star was crowned player of the year at Sixfields on Saturday ahead of the 1-1 draw with Gillingham, his second successive win and a recognition from the supporters of the vital role he has played this term.

Jacobs' performances have alerted a wealth of higher-level clubs, including Derby County and Charlton Athletic, but Boothroyd would like to keep the youth system product at Sixfields and wants him to consider his next move very carefully.

"Sometimes they go too early and that's why I've been getting him to room with Ben Tozer because I think his move to Newcastle was a bit premature for him," he said. "The grass isn't always greener.

"Sometimes we think that and we jump too early, but Michael can still play a very big part in what we're trying to do here.

"At this moment in time there are a lot of people in his ear who will make a lot of money if he moves and not so much if he stays.

"They're agents and agents are good when you need them and not so good when they're not working against you, but when they want something different to what you want."

Boothroyd feels Jacobs was full deserving of his award at the weekend, with the midfielder seeing off top goalscorer Adebayo Akinfenwa in a two-horse race for the honour.

But he also thinks the 20-year-old will improve if he remains at the club, and is confident he will get the best out of the player.

"Bayo's got a lot of goals again and Michael will play his 100th game for the club if he plays at Rotherham at the weekend," he said.

"If he tells me he doesn't want to stay then I might not let him play, just to be awkward. No, he will play, because he's a fantastic player.

"There's a lot of players who are working very hard to support him and he'll be the first to acknowledge their help in him getting that award.

"He deserves his accolade and I still think he can get better. I've worked with some really good players and I think I know how to get the best out of them.

"I think I know how to improve them, how to get the best out of them and how to help themselves."

The Cobblers wrap up their npower League Two campaign this Saturday when they take on Rotherham United at the Don Valley Stadium in Sheffield.

Wood: We don't fear any team

TOM WOOD says Saints don't fear anybody and don't mind where any prospective Premiership semi-final will be.

They have the small matter of sealing fourth place by beating Worcester at Franklin's Gardens on Saturday (ko 2pm), but Wood is confident Saints will dispose of his old club to set up a semi-final that could be at Harlequins, Leicester or Saracens.

The England flanker has been forced to miss the end of the season because of a problematic foot injury, but insists he will be on hand to do anything he can to help his team-mates as they attempt to win the Premiership for the first time. They will have to do it the hard way with Saints heading for an away semi-final if they can beat Worcester on Saturday.

Wood said: "We have got a very good chance of winning the Premiership. We have a few things going on in the background with suspensions and injuries, but we have proven that we can go away to a tough team like Exeter in a crunch game and get a good win. That will fill the lads with confidence.

"We have got a strong squad, which we have an enormous amount of faith in. They have always pulled it out of the bag when we have needed them to and I think we are capable of beating anybody, whether it is at Welford Road or at The Stoop or Vicarage Road.

"We have another big game to go through yet. We have got to beat Worcester, but at home we have got to be confident in ourselves and hopefully we will get there."

To win the Premiership in a World Cup year would be a magnificent achievement for a side that started the season with four defeats in their first five games thanks to eight players being in New Zealand.

Wood was one of those players and is one of four internationals Saints have been missing of late, with Calum Clark and Dylan Hartley suspended and Courtney Lawes injured, though it is hoped the England lock will return this weekend.

With half a pack missing Saints were mauled by arch-rivals Leicester two games ago, but Wood believes they can learn from that for the final push for the title.

"It makes us take a step back and makes us recognise where our strengths and weaknesses are," said Wood. "It will certainly mean we don't go into any game with any complacency.

"But we know when we are on our game we can mix with the best of them."

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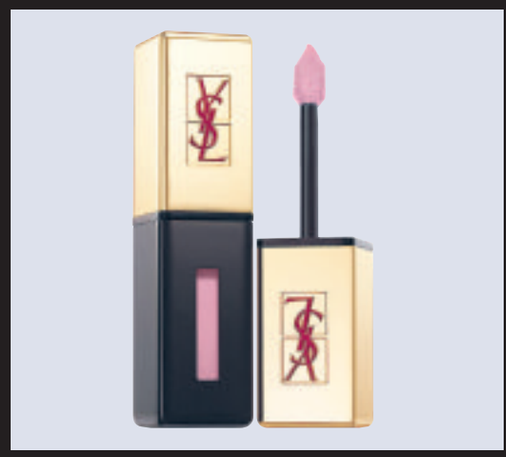

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